Bible & Daily Living

An enduring covenant

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
An Enduring Covenant
Lesson for August 9, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Deuteronomy 29-1-15
Introduction

There is an obvious difference between a covenant and a contract. Contracts soon expire and lose their usefulness, but covenants are intended to endure the trials and tests of time. When God made a covenant with Noah, he set a rainbow in the clouds and said, "I will look upon it that I may remember..."

A covenant basically states that two parties promise to live out their commitments to one another. In marriage two persons covenant together to love and share life. Each partner in a marriage "vows" to contribute to the happiness and personal growth of the other. Larry Chengges speaks of this in his poem, "A Part of You, A Part of Me". Because of you, I am a different person, and the person I will grow to become, with or without you by my side, will have gotten there, partly because of you. If you were not in my life right now, I could not be who I am right now. Nor would I be growing in exactly the same way.

This week the lesson focuses upon the covenant that God formed with the Hebrew people. This covenant, like most, had to be reaffirmed over again. Moses reminded the people that without a reaffirmation of the covenant, they would not inherit the new land.
The Covenant revisited [Deut. 29:1-9]

Moses impressed upon the people how important it is to possess a good memory. He retraced the steps of the Lord's actions in behalf of the people. The group to whom Moses spoke were really the children of those who were freed from Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for forty years. These "children" were reminded of the earlier covenant, and before they could enter the promised land they must reaffirm their commitment to the covenant.

The people in that day were no less slow to understand than we are. They were well acquainted with the facts of how God had acted before. Thus, they were not without knowledge. We know very well how easy it is to live in the shadow of God's workings and remain spiritually blind. As we open ourselves to God and believe freely, God gives to us the understanding.

Next, Moses takes his hearers on a journey down "memory lane" of more recent events. He recalled to them how God had acted more recently in their behalf during several battles. Then comes the call to "Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do."
A Lasting Covenant [Deut. 29:10-15]

Moses was assertive to instruct the people that this covenant would serve all generations to come. All people and nations would do well to follow the covenant ideals to bring about peace and prosperity.

Some are quick to want to desert or discard certain heritages. But to throw out the past may mean we will have no sense of direction for the future. The past is valuable for facing the future, and for instructing us in how we are to govern our lives.

Religious traditions have their place in private and corporate belief. The expressions of faith take various forms between one denomination and another. Freedom of expression is a guaranteed aspect of the covenant. The issue is that we acknowledge God and our dependence upon him for life and faith.

God is faithful in his covenant promises. He does not forget or relinquish his commitments to his people. We may falter and wander from our commitments, but he remains firm, and, like a good father, he stands with outstretched arms to welcome us back from our "wilderness wanderings."

The good news of this covenant that God has established with us is that even our children's children are recipients of the same love and provisions that God makes to us.

The covenant people are special people. They can bring about positive change and affect the course of history, through concern, compassion and proclamation of the loving, covenant God.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

Services set at Jordan

Regular preaching services will be held Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. All members and friends are urged to attend.

On the 3rd Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. the Young Adult Choir will be sponsoring a Pew Rally. A special program is being planned for your enjoyment.

The Young Adults will have a special practice and meeting at 6:00 p.m. August 10, 1981.

LBC class visits KD

The Liberty Baptist Church College/Career Sunday School Class spent a fun-filled day at Kings Dominion Saturday, Aug. 1.

Those attending were Freddy Mitchell, Shelby Dunnam, Nadine Bugg, John Blakely, Jane Bennett, Barry Bennett, Susan Adams, Sandra Ferguson, Bill Lewis, Claudia Gordon, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan.

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Times-Virginian

Church News

Davis delivers sermon

Our last Sunday's service was very inspiring. Rev. Davis delivered a wonderful sermon. The newly organized choir The Chancels under the direction of Mr. Tim Lawing delivered the music. Many visitors and friends were present.'

Promise Land Baptist Church Homecoming and Revival will begin the Fourth Sunday in August. Plans are being finalized for these services.

Regular services will be held this Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Installation services for the Rev. Albert E. Davis, pastor of the Promise Land Baptist Church will be held Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m. Final plans will be announced at a later date.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harris of Pittsburg, Penn. were recent visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Forest, Sr.

The community wishes to extend sympathy to the Harry Pannell family.

Let us continue to pray for the sick and shut-in.

The Pastor Speaks

By KITCH SHATZER

A popular controversy recently has been the question of what theory of the earth's origin should be taught in our school systems. A well-known minister is even conducting a nation-wide survey about the issue, using all forms of the public media, newspapers, magazines, TV, radio, whatever you believe about creation.

The majestic biblical story of creation illustrates a profound spiritual truth. The earth was without shape, empty and shrouded in darkness. But it was not forgotten-and "the Spirit of God was moving."

Have you ever felt that your life was empty, futile, submerged in frustration and darkness? Has your soul echoed Christ's cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The fact is that God never forsakes His own. When we feel most alone let us recognize our need, turn to Christ, and hear Him say, "Lo, I am with you always. I will never leave you or forsake you." In fact, God may be closest when our feelings say, "He doesn't care. He is not near." His word is true. His promises never fail. He cannot forget or forsake us.

Long ago there lived a man who lost everything in one day: wealth, influence, children, health. His wife suggested that there was nothing left to live for. But Job knew better.

"The Spirit of God was moving." God was speaking. From Job's cracked and tortured lips there arose the song of triumph, "He knows the way I take....I shall come forth as gold....I know that my Redeemer lives....Yet in my flesh I shall see God."

Let us thank God for His power that has created all things and pray that this same power will transform our feelings of emptiness and darkness into abundance and light. Let us rely on His promises alone.

Kitch Shatzer is pastor of Concord Beale Memorial, Buffalo and Madisonville Presbyterian Churches.

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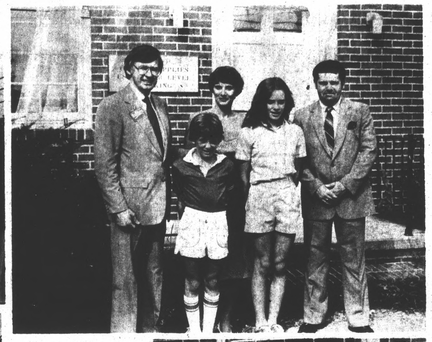

CANDIDATES IN THE upcoming Virginia political races have been visiting Appomattox in recent weeks. Shown clockwise, from upper left, are Republican gubernatorial candidate Marshall Coleman and his wife, posing with an entourage of Republican supporters from Appomattox County at the John Mosby Inn; Democratic candidate for Attorney General Jerry Baliles and his family pose with Appomattox Mayor Ronnie Spiggle; Dick Davis, Democratic candidate for Lt. Governor, poses with Appomattox County Democrat Harry Gordon Lawson; and Republican candidate for Attorney General, Wallace Durrette, with local Republican Party workers.

Mays, Spiggle head Demo effort

Monte Mays and Ronald Spiggle are heading the Appomattox County Citizens for Robb for Governor campaign.

Mays, Commissioner of Revenue for the County of Appomattox is serving as chairman of the campaign and Spiggle, Mayor for the Town of Appomattox, is serving as secretary-treasurer of the group.

In speaking of why he decided to become actively involved in campaigning for Robb for Governor of Virginia, Mays had this to say: "I want to point out that this election means a great deal to me as a conservative; I do consider myself a conservative. In fact, Appomattox has one of the most conservative Commissioner of Revenue Offices in the state of Virginia."

Mays continued, "When asked to fill this position, I didn't give an immediate answer. I wanted to find out as much as possible about the candidate and what he stood for. I didn't want to prejudge. After much thought and study, I am convinced that Robb is a man who is responsive to the needs of the people."

Robb, according to Mays has "performed the duties of the office of Lt. Governor in a most professional manner and has earned the respect and admiration of both the senate and the house during his tenure in office.

Spiggle had this to say: "This is the most important election in many years. My decision to become actively involved in this campaign was based on the fact that my philosophy is very conservative. I have known Chuck Robb for many years. He is honest, reliable, and dependable. Having been to Richmond many times while the State Legislature was in session, I have had the opportunity to see Chuck at work as presiding officer of the Virginia Senate where he demonstrated fairness and responsibility in this position. He listens to and is attuned to the problems affecting small towns and rural areas. It is my contention that Chuck Robb is the future of Virginia; he is the only candidate that can and will cooperate with the law-making body of our state. I would urge people to examine the candidate very carefully and judge them strictly on their own merits. The ability to choose those who are our government officials and leaders is a privilege that few in our world enjoy. It is an act we often take for granted. Chuck Robb is a conservative, he is a good family man and he served in the armed forces of his country. He is a man that all of us can be proud of as our next governor of Virginia."

Mays and Spiggle

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Home of the Week

Breakfast Bay Window Also Shown

TWO STORY PLAN HAS TWIN BAY WINDOWS AND CANTELEVERED SECOND FLOOR

FEATURE HOMES
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Being rectangular in shape this plan would be more economical to build. From the foyer a full size living and full size dining are provided. The family room is on the rear left and includes a fireplace with full room width hearth as well as a gas jet and ash dump. Deck access is from here also.

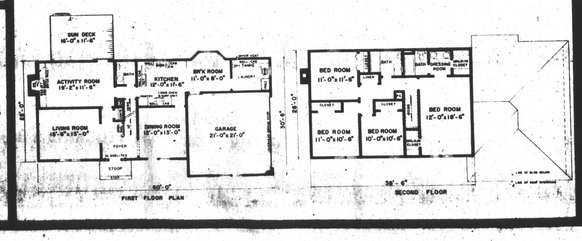
There is a central first floor half bath for daytime use and a stair to the basement is under the stair up for greater space utilization.

The kitchen is larger than average and includes built-in appliances and a pantry. The adjacent breakfast room includes a bay window and laundry access and double side entry garage access.

There are four bedrooms up all with good closet space. A linen closet and a bath are from the central hall. The master bedroom is endowed with a luxury compartment bath.

The exterior is accented by frame and brick construction, bay windows, gable roof and multi-lite shuttered windows. Front wall changes for the C front pictured are shown on actual working drawings.

The plan is number 2237C. It includes 2,209 square feet of heated area. All W.D. Farmer plans include special construction details for energy efficiency, and are guaranteed to meet F.H.A. and V.A. requirements. For further information on plan 2237C, write W.D. Farmer Residence Designer, Inc., P.O. Box 49463, Atlanta, Ga. 30359.



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